

FADE IN:

INT. CAR - DAY

SKY BREWER, biracial, 27, a natural beauty, sits impatient in the drivers seat. ANDI LU, Chinese, charmed preppy, 27, sits next to her controlled.

He checks on their son, MISHA (Pronounced Mee-sha), 4, in the backseat via the rearview window. Misha plays with two toy cars, makes "pretend" crashing noises.

ANDI

Maybe you should come in so it doesn't look awkward.

SKY

I'm not to keen on having my son in there much less myself.

ANDI

Your son?

Andi gets out, Misha attempts to unbuckle his seat belt. Sky sees him struggle through the rearview mirror.

SKY

Andi, you wanna help him...

Andi opens the door a second later, assists Misha. He throws Sky a glance. This is where they live as a couple now, uncoordinated and out of sync.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Misha hops down onto the sidewalk next to Andi.

MISHA

Mommy...

SKY

Sweetie, I have to watch the car.

ANDI

An hour tops.

Andi takes a moment to send a visual plea to Sky, who slowly drives into a parking space, never looks back at them.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Andi finds his mother JIE LU, near the nurses station. She is a vibrant woman in her late 40s.

Andi's demeanor shifts upward. Jie reaches to caress Misha, but he steps closer to Andi.

ANDI  
Hey, what's wrong with you?

JIE  
He's shy?

ANDI  
Misha, this is your grandma, give her a hug.

JIE  
Don't force An. He doesn't know me. It's okay.

Jie takes Misha's hand, gives it a tender shake.

ANDI  
He should know you, both of you.

JIE  
He will.  
(to Misha)  
How old are you now?

MISHA  
Four.

JIE  
Big boy... lovely. An, you should go in now.

Andi looks at the room, produces a quick huff. They all proceed inside.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Andi momentarily lingers by the door. He finally walks in to find his father, SAM LU, 50s, lying unconscious.

Andi takes a hard look at Sam. There's hints of previous strength, but somewhat worn down now. His current grim condition dominates.

Several IVs are connected to his arm and an oxygen mask covers his mouth that barely breathes.

The EKG never skips a beat, neither fast nor slow... just moving, reminding, prepping.

Jie walks past him and returns to a chair positioned by Sam's bed. She picks up a book, reads barely above a whisper.

ANDI

What book is that?

JIE

The Time Machine. It's his favorite.

ANDI

I didn't know.

MISHA

Who is this, Daddy?

ANDI

This is your other grandpa, Misha... my dad, Sam Lu.

Misha looks over at Jie, then Sam. They are total strangers to him. Misha looks up at Andi, places his hand over Sam's, mimicking his dad. Andi takes Sam's and Misha's hands, squeezes them together.

INT. ANDI'S OFFICE - DAY (THREE YEARS LATER)

A striking portrait of a younger Sam in a military outfit hangs proudly on the wall. Underneath the photo highlights his birth and death.

Andi contemplates making a phone call.

INT. SKY'S GALLERY - DAY

A small local boutique with a down to earth feel. A dozen or more contemporary art pieces, strategically placed, brighten the environment.

Sky, much more relaxed than we last saw her, hangs a final portrait with the help of her assistant CURT, a college student, 22, great sense of fashion. He respectfully flirts with Sky.

Misha sits at the front desk doing homework. He focuses on a small television set.

## TELEVISION

A melodramatic soap opera scene unfolds of A SMALL BOY screaming at TWO ADULTS who stop their intense bickering:

SMALL BOY

(on TV)

I'm going to kill myself. I will do it... I will.

The two adults hug the boy, then hug each other.

SKY (O.S.)

Misha, your homework please.

## INT. SKY'S GALLERY - DAY

Misha returns back to his homework. The phone in the gallery comes to life. Sky checks the caller ID screen, then rushes to put on her headset.

## INT. ANDI'S OFFICE/SKY'S GALLERY - SAME

SKY

Hey baby. Hard at work, or hardly working?

ANDI

You know the answer to that.

SKY

(flirtatious whisper)

Maybe I'll need reminding... after the show.

ANDI

Will do. How are you holding up?

SKY

God, I keep forgetting simple things easy to remember.

ANDI

You'll do fine.

SKY

I hope. Oh--my mom said, she'll pick Misha up in a few. Curt and I have to finish setting up. I'll run home, get dressed, head back, so you can come straight here--

ANDI

Sky. We had to move one of our meetings back to seven. I've been chasing this account awhile and... I won the bid. So um, I have to take the meeting. This is a heavyweight.

Sky unplugs the headset and hands the phone to Misha.

ANDI (CONT'D)

Sky...?

MISHA

Hello?

ANDI

Oh, hey buddy.

MISHA

Hi, Dad.

ANDI

Where's your mom?

MISHA

She's by the wall, mad.

ANDI

I bet. Did you do your homework?

MISHA

The math. It was easy. Curt said, he will help me with the rest.

ANDI

Listen, I want you to do the homework yourself, got it?

MISHA

Okay, Dad.

Another call BEEPS in.

MISHA (CONT'D)

Mom, it's beeping. Bye, Dad.

Misha hands the phone back to Sky.

INT. SKY'S GALLERY - DAY

Sky ignores the other call. She walks off to a corner to argue in private.

CURT

Hey little man, how are you making  
out there?

Curt struts over, bends down to assist Misha, who covers his homework from Curt's view.

MISHA

My dad said, to do it by myself

Misha ignores his homework and focuses on Sky in the corner upset. She sees Misha and turns her body away from him.

INT. ANDI'S/SKY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sky, dressed elegantly, tip toes up the staircase. She peeks into Misha's bedroom. He is sound asleep. The sight of him resting peacefully soothes her.

INT. ANDI'S/SKY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Andi relaxes on the bed, but still in his business clothes. Sky walks in past him, straight to their bathroom and slams the door shut. Andi moves swiftly over to the bathroom door, taps on it gently.

ANDI

Hey... How was it? Sky?

The toilet flushes. The water runs. Andi waits. Sky finally opens the door and brushes past Andi.

SKY

Why did you pick Misha up?

ANDI

I just got him.

She stands by her dresser, removes her jewelry. Andi stands behind her, admires her appearance. He proceeds to embrace her, but Sky remains stoic.

SKY

How long were you here?

ANDI

Two hours.

SKY

You still could have showed up.

ANDI

I had Misha.

SKY

He was fine at my parents.

ANDI

He was tired. I was tired. I'll go to the next one, no matter what. After this account, I'll have more time. Just have to settle--

SKY

Everything has precedent over this family, so it seems.

ANDI

You think that gallery is sustaining us, Misha's education? No, that would be me.

SKY

It wasn't meant to run alone. That was suppose to be our project.

ANDI

I don't have a dad who happily pays for every whim. I don't even have a dad, period.

SKY

And I'm sorry about that. Ever since he passed, it's like, you have an aversion to anything creative. When was the last time you picked up a drawing pad or even went to a museum with us--

ANDI

The world doesn't revolve around art. I don't have that leisure anymore.

Andi stamps out. Sky stalks after him.

INT. ANDI'S/SKY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

SKY

... Oh, you're just going to drop that shit on me and walk out?

ANDI

I need some fresh air.

SKY  
I'm tired of placating you,  
pretending like I'm happy.

ANDI  
Then don't pretend.

A toilet FLUSHES. Andi pushes the bathroom door in. Misha stands there, sleepy and bothered.

SKY  
Hey, sweetie.

MISHA  
Stop cursing.

ANDI  
Did you wash your hands?

Misha strolls back into the bathroom.

SKY  
Are we going to finish?

ANDI  
I don't have the capacity for this  
right now.

SKY  
Maybe if I were work, I would get  
some time.

ANDI  
When I am here, you're always at  
the damn gallery.

Misha darts back out.

MISHA  
You're not suppose to curse Dad.

ANDI  
You're right, sorry.

MISHA  
Mom, can I watch TV?

ANDI  
Do you know what time it is? Not  
an option buddy. It's late.

SKY  
You have school tomorrow, you don't  
want to be all sleepy.

MISHA  
I'm not sleepy anymore.

ANDI  
Misha... in the bed, now.

SKY  
Come on sweetie.

Sky guides Misha inside his room.

INT. MISHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Misha turns on his television set. Andi storms in.

ANDI  
Sky... seriously, are you kidding  
me? Misha, turn that off.

Misha looks to Sky for approval.

ANDI (CONT'D)  
Did you hear what I said?

MISHA  
Yes, Dad.

SKY  
Why are you yelling? You don't  
have to treat him like some cadet.

ANDI  
You want him to be spoiled?

SKY  
That's not the point.

ANDI  
Show some respect for my decisions.  
He's our son, in case you forgot--

SKY  
You know, I'm so sick of this--

Misha SMASHES one of his toys against the wall.

MISHA  
Stop it or I'm... I'm-I'm gonna...  
I'm gonna kill myself.

ANDI  
What did you say?

MISHA  
I'm gonna do it. I'm for real.

SKY  
Stop saying that.

MISHA  
No. I gonna do it--

Misha makes a beeline for his throat, squeezes with all his might. Andi quickly grabs him and Sky intervenes.

SKY  
Don't grab on him like that!

ANDI  
Goddamit Sky, let me handle it!

Misha produces a blaring SCREAM. Andi and Sky halt where they stand, shocked at the loudness of his plea.

MISHA  
Stop it!

SKY  
Okay, Sssh baby. It's over.

Andi bends down to console both of them, but Sky forcefully blocks any affection he wants to provide.